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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: July 21, 2020

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2020 Nelchina Caribou Hunt Quotas and Resident Bag Limits Announced

(Glennallen) – Resident caribou hunters in Game Management Unit 13 will be able to harvest a caribou of either sex this hunting season. Permits were printed with bag limits “to be announced,” pending summer census attempts in July 2020. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is announcing the bag limit of one caribou for all Unit 13 state-managed resident caribou hunts (RC561, RC562, CC001, DC485 and YC495). The bag limit for DC475 remains one bull.

The Nelchina caribou herd did not form substantial post-calving aggregations in 2020, which precluded a census attempt for the herd. Radiocollars indicate that the Nelchina herd experienced good survival and recruitment rates into the spring of 2020. Parturition rates (cows giving birth to calves) were moderate in 2020. Combined with a 2019 fall estimate of 46,528 caribou, these data inform the department’s July 2020 post-calving herd estimate of 44,500 caribou. This leaves enough adults to allow permit holders to harvest either sex in 2020.

The department has determined the following 2020 initial quotas for state-managed Nelchina caribou hunts:

Hunt	Number of 2020 Permits	2020 Quota
YC495	200	150
DC475	50	40
DC485	2,000	1,000
RC561	3,065	1,750
RC562	3,821	1,750
CC001	811	400
		5,090

Quotas for each hunt are not likely to be reached during the fall season, allowing hunts to run the duration of their scheduled seasons. Harvest will be evaluated after September 20th to determine if hunts will reopen for regularly scheduled winter seasons. Hunt updates and additional information will be available on the Nelchina hotline at (907) 267-2304.

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